United Nations A/C.4/68/SR.18

General Assembly
Sixty-eighth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
14 January 2014

Original: English

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Summary record of the 18th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 31 October 2013, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Motanyane (Vice-Chair) ..... (Lesotho)

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In the absence of Mr. García González (El Salvador), Mr. Motanyane (Lesotho), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 53: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Tarawneh** (Jordan) said that more than 3,600 Jordanian troops were participating in nine United Nations peacekeeping missions. Peacekeeping and peacebuilding were interrelated and peacekeeping operations must be accompanied by efforts to address the root causes of conflicts. Troop-contributing countries must, moreover, be more closely involved in policy development and decision-making in connection with those operations.

2. Jordan regretted that the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, which was the sole authority empowered to formulate and review policies in that area, had been unable to adopt substantive recommendations at its 2013 session, and urged all stakeholders to demonstrate stronger political will with a view to achieving the objectives to which the Organization and troop-contributing countries aspired. Jordan was ready to participate constructively in the open-ended intersessional group of "friends of the Chair" to achieve compromise solutions and ensure that the Special Committee issued recommendations during the current session of the General Assembly, and called on all Member States to engage constructively with that group and shoulder their responsibilities.

3. Jordan welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly of the Senior Advisory Group's recommendations on administrative and budgetary questions, including that of financial compensation for countries participating in peacekeeping operations, and called for those recommendations to be implemented at the earliest opportunity. Jordan also welcomed the initiative to publish a guide for peacekeepers to enhance their effectiveness and called for the participation of more Arabic-speaking peacekeepers.

4. **Mr. Mana** (Cameroon) urged the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations to achieve consensus with a view to ensuring the success of its 2014 substantive session. Approximately 600 personnel from Cameroon's defence and security forces were serving in peacekeeping operations. Such operations were becoming increasingly complex and multidimensional, creating raised expectations and new challenges. It was important that the reform proposals being developed by the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop contributors should be harmonized and should result in strengthened partnership among all peacekeeping stakeholders. His delegation remained committed to the established peacekeeping principles of consent of the parties, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, the non-use of force except in certain prescribed circumstances and clearly defined mandates.

5. To support Cameroon's efforts to strengthen the capacities of personnel participating in peacekeeping missions, a United Nations delegation had visited the Cameroon-based International Security Forces Training School, which provided peacekeeping training for African countries' domestic security forces. The School made an important contribution to peacekeeping efforts in Africa and planned to conduct advanced courses on aspects of peacekeeping in 2014. In order to foster peace more effectively, peacekeeping personnel must receive training in crisis management, be familiar with the history and culture of host countries and be duly informed about the United Nations and its guiding principles. The contributions of the African States, which had come to form the backbone of peacekeeping operations, merited due recognition. His delegation hoped that rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries would be revised upward in view of the increased costs borne by those countries.

6. **Ms. Thomas Edwards** (Jamaica) said that her country strongly condemned all attacks against United Nations peacekeepers. Ensuring the safety and security of peacekeepers must remain a key priority for the Organization, which must establish clear criteria for assessing security needs, evaluating threats and managing risk. Initiatives to promote efficiency must never compromise operational necessities or the safety of peacekeeping personnel.

7. Efforts by the Department of Field Support and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to promote environmental sustainability and energy efficiency in peacekeeping missions through the use of innovative equipment and technologies were laudable. Jamaica commended the inclusion of environmental considerations in the peacekeeping mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and

welcomed the proposed establishment of an expert panel to examine the use of modern technology in peacekeeping operations.

8. Sustainable peace and stability could best be achieved by addressing the root causes of conflict, including poverty, competition for scarce resources, unemployment and the systemic violation of human rights. A holistic approach to conflict prevention and peacebuilding was required, including the use of early warning and early response systems and the promotion of security sector reform and good governance. Developed countries must, moreover, honour their commitments to developing and least-developed countries to help them meet their socioeconomic goals. South-South cooperation was also important in order to facilitate technology transfer and promote capacity-building.

9. The resources allocated to peacekeeping must be commensurate with the expanded mandates of modern-day peacekeeping missions, which should be planned and implemented through close collaboration between the missions, United Nations country teams and other stakeholders in development. Enhanced coordination between the Security Council, the Special Committee, the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries was also required.

10. Female Jamaican officers had been deployed with peacekeeping missions as contingent commanders and teachers. Jamaica emphasized that women must be fully involved in all stages of peacekeeping and peacebuilding and supported efforts to ensure that senior-level gender expertise was an integral part of peacekeeping missions. Her delegation fully supported the Secretariat's adoption of a zero-tolerance approach to sexual and gender-based violence and abuse, and commended the training provided to military and civilian peacekeepers as a means of addressing that problem.

11. Jamaica welcomed the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), which was providing training to the Haitian National Police so that it could assume full responsibility for the maintenance of internal security. She urged Member States to provide adequate resources to enable that vital work to continue, and emphasized that the withdrawal of MINUSTAH must be contingent on the emergence of more stable institutions in Haiti and tangible progress towards lasting stability. Her delegation was concerned about the slow disbursement of the funds pledged by the international community to assist Haiti, and hoped that those commitments would be honoured promptly and in full.

12. **Mr. Alday González** (Mexico) said that peacekeeping operations were a fundamental part of the work done by the United Nations to maintain international peace and security. Such operations promoted the security-development relationship, as embodied by the post-2015 development agenda, efforts to protect children and women in armed conflict, respect for human rights and the fight against impunity.

13. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations continued to be the appropriate forum for discussions on peacekeeping operations, which required commitment and a constructive and frank exchange on all sides. The Special Committee's failure to reach agreement on its 2013 report was therefore regrettable. Given the complicated and ever-changing context of peacekeeping operations, the substance of discussions was obviously more important than the form. In that regard, Mexico reiterated its willingness to participate in the open-ended intersessional group of "friends of the Chair".

14. In order to be successful, peacekeeping operations should be based on clear, realistic and measurable mandates. Mexico expressed concern at mandates involving "peace enforcement", which compromised the impartiality and legitimacy of the Organization's activities. Also of serious concern was the security of peacekeepers, who were frequently the targets of abductions and attacks. Mexico considered it fundamental to continue promoting cooperation between different missions deployed in the same region for the purposes of exchanging information and human and material resources. That concept also applied to dialogue among different United Nations entities, Member States and troop- and police-contributing countries, so as to adapt missions to particular contexts, especially in relation to transitions and exit strategies.

15. With specific reference to MINUSTAH, Mexico emphasized the importance of coordination between the Mission, the Haitian authorities and the Secretary-General so that the reconfiguration plan corresponded

to actual needs and met the concerns of the Haitian people.

16. **Ms. Al-Thani** (Qatar) said that her country deeply appreciated the sacrifices made by peacekeepers, who were often deployed in highly volatile areas where their lives were at considerable risk. Peacekeeping missions should be allocated sufficient resources so as to enable them to achieve their objectives and provide for the safety of their personnel. In that connection, stakeholders needed to consider how the Organization could better protect peacekeepers deployed in chronically unstable areas. Peacekeepers must also be protected by laws that provided for the prosecution of those who committed crimes against them.

17. Because the overwhelming majority of peacekeepers were from developing countries, those countries must be more closely involved in all aspects of planning for peacekeeping operations. Peacekeeping missions must work closely with the host countries to identify the most effective ways to achieve their objectives. They must uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the guidelines established for such operations, including respect for the sovereignty of States. Furthermore, to safeguard the credibility of United Nations operations, it was crucial that peacekeeping missions should adhere scrupulously to their mandates.

18. Although they could help establish an environment that was conducive to peacebuilding efforts, peacekeeping operations could not replace efforts to address the root causes of conflicts, nor could they serve merely as a crisis management tool. To enhance their effectiveness and facilitate their interaction with the inhabitants of a host country, peacekeeping missions must afford due attention to the culture, language and other pertinent characteristics of the country in question. Qatar supported all efforts to promote women's involvement in initiatives to prevent and resolve conflict and, in that connection, warmly welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution 2122 (2013) on women, peace and security. The zero-tolerance policy with regard to incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse perpetrated by peacekeepers must also be fully implemented.

19. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations remained the key forum for discussing current and emerging peacekeeping developments and challenges. It was therefore important to enhance its oversight role and foster cooperation among that Committee, the Fifth and Sixth Committees of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

20. **Mr. Idris** (Eritrea) said that if United Nations peacekeeping missions were deployed with clear and achievable mandates and adequate financial and human resources, enjoyed broad political support and adopted clear exit strategies, they could make a significant contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security. There was broad-based support for United Nations peacekeeping operations because the Organization embodied the principles of neutrality and international cooperation. However, for United Nations peacekeeping operations to stay relevant, they must continue to uphold those principles, in addition to the principles enshrined in the Charter, namely the consent of the parties concerned, strict neutrality and the non-use of force except in self-defence.

21. Governments bore primary responsibility for the protection of their nationals, and the protection of civilians must not serve as a pretext for interference in the internal affairs of States. Peacekeeping was neither a tool for crisis management nor an alternative to efforts to address the root causes of conflicts. For peacekeeping missions to be brought to a successful conclusion, greater emphasis must be placed on resolving, in a comprehensive manner, the economic, social and political issues that had led to conflict.

22. Although regional organizations could play a key role in promoting international peace and security, they could not obviate the primary responsibility of the Security Council in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. Furthermore, innovative approaches and technologies adopted by peacekeeping missions to enhance their capacity to fulfil their mandates must comply fully with international legal safeguards.

23. Synergy between the Special Committee, the Security Council and the Secretariat was crucial if United Nations peacekeeping operations were to be made more effective. His delegation was deeply concerned that the Special Committee had been unable to agree on substantive issues at its 2013 session. Eritrea would continue to engage cooperatively with all members of the Special Committee with a view to ensuring that future sessions of the Special Committee were successful.

24. **Mr. Orellana Zabalza** (Guatemala) reiterated the central role of United Nations peacekeeping operations in the maintenance of international peace and security, and emphasized the importance of strengthening the operational capacity and organizational structure of such operations. As the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations was the only forum for in-depth policy review in the area of peacekeeping, that Committee's failure to reach agreement on the draft recommendations of its Working Group of the Whole was regrettable. In that regard, substantive issues should clearly prevail over questions of form.

25. All peacekeeping operations should have clear, feasible and verifiable mandates specific to each case. In order for mandates to be successful, any shortcomings in relation to capacities, resources and training should be overcome by means of better coordination between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries, for example through periodic reviews of peacekeeping operations. The key concept was that of triangular cooperation between those bodies as well as consultation from the very beginning with troop-contributing countries, which were able to provide individual points of view and specific capacities of value to operations.

26. With reference to the global partnership that was at the heart of peacekeeping operations, the question of troop costs could not be overlooked. The way in which reimbursement rates were calculated should be rationalized, and an opportunity to do that would arise at the January 2014 meeting of the Working Group on Contingent-owned Equipment. A cost-benefit analysis of peacekeeping operations was essential, since saving lives and keeping the peace could not be contingent on financial considerations.

27. Absolute priority should be given to the safety of peacekeepers. In that regard, attacks had occurred recently in the Sudan, South Sudan, Mali and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It was clear that responsibility in that area lay with the host countries. Moreover, Guatemala was dissatisfied with the slowness of the investigations into those incidents. The host countries should speed up investigations and those responsible should be brought to justice so that such incidents did not recur.

28. Peacekeeping operations should not be perceived as a subcontracting exercise whereby the difficult and dangerous task of peacekeeping was outsourced by developed countries to low-cost troops from developing countries. Rather, peacekeeping operations should be seen as part of the international community's shared commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations. As the long-term sustainability of peacekeeping would depend on ensuring that troop-contributing countries had the requisite capacities, reimbursements to those countries should be prompt and efficient. Furthermore, Guatemala considered it essential to maintain a substantive and continuous dialogue among the members of the Special Committee for Peacekeeping Operations.

29. **Mr. Proaño** (Ecuador) said that as a result of the growing complexity of peacekeeping mandates and the increasingly difficult circumstances in which they took place, there was a need for more rigorous debate on the maintenance of international peace and security. All peacekeeping missions must be carried out in accordance with the fundamental principles of consent of the parties, impartiality and non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate. It was also essential to comply with the principles of State sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs.

30. Peacekeeping operations gained their legitimacy through frank and inclusive dialogue between Member States, especially within the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. It was therefore regrettable that in 2013 that Committee had been unable to put forward substantive recommendations in response to changing circumstances in the area of peacekeeping.

31. The trend towards greater participation by women in peacekeeping operations should be encouraged. All forms of sexual violence in peacekeeping operations should be strongly rejected and the necessary measures taken to eliminate them. The role of women in peacekeeping and peacebuilding could usefully be debated within the General Assembly and the Special Committee. Mandates should be defined clearly and political manipulation should be avoided. Protection of civilians in armed conflict was important as well, although it should not be used as a pretext to violate national sovereignty or to modify the parameters governing the use of force, since the principle of proportionality should be respected.

32. The use of new technologies such as unmanned aerial systems in peacekeeping operations should be thoroughly discussed, since there were a number of

delicate ethical, legal and political issues that related to consent of the parties and respect for States' sovereignty and internal security.

33. Ecuador supported the renewal of the mandate of MINUSTAH, to which it contributed its largest peacekeeping contingent. Ecuador considered that the Mission's consolidation plan should be implemented in accordance with the situation on the ground, the development of national capacities and the consent of the Haitian Government in relation to police development, electoral capacity, respect for human rights and governance. Under no circumstances should the consolidation plan be implemented as part of structural adjustment programmes.

34. **Mr. León González** (Cuba) expressed concern at the creation of new multidimensional peacekeeping missions and the modification of existing mandates without the participation of troop-contributing countries in decision-making and without adequate military backstopping, since there was an acknowledged shortage of critical equipment and capacities.

35. Mandates should be approved only when firm commitments had been made regarding contingents and financing. In 2013, 79 male and female peacekeepers had been killed; it was clear that planning and resource deficiencies endangered lives and the fulfilment of mandates, which should be clearly defined with achievable objectives and adequate resources based on a realistic evaluation of the situation. That was only possible by means of coordination between host countries, troop-contributing countries, the Secretariat and the Security Council.

36. In most cases, host countries and troop contributors were not guaranteed truly active participation in decision-making processes. They should be heavily involved at all stages, from policymaking to the roll-out of operations. Coordination between the Special Committee and the Fifth Committee should be enhanced. Furthermore, Cuba considered that the introduction of modern technologies such as unmanned aerial systems into peacekeeping operations should be discussed in detail by the Special Committee, as such initiatives had legal implications and raised issues of State sovereignty and security.

37. The General Assembly had the primary responsibility for the formulation and evaluation of peacekeeping concepts and policies. Any guidelines or doctrines put forward by the Secretariat that had an impact on Member States' participation in peacekeeping operations must be agreed upon through intergovernmental negotiations.

38. Peacekeeping had become a very complex task and had come to encompass emerging security challenges and non-traditional activities. Many different aspects required detailed and systematic analysis in order to enhance the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations and maintain the Organization's credibility. Those issues included training, conduct and discipline, the use of force and the deployment of advanced technology. Irrespective of their complexity, peacekeeping operations must be strictly based on the Charter of the United Nations. Operations should comply with the basic principles of consent of the parties, impartiality and non-use of force except in self-defence. The unjustified expansion of the use of force could blur the line between peacekeeping and peace enforcement and could compromise the Organization's neutrality, thereby increasing risks for the civilian population.

39. Although the Security Council, by its resolution 2098 (2013), had established an Intervention Brigade within the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) on an exceptional basis and without creating a precedent or any prejudice to the agreed principles of peacekeeping, that measure did have a significant effect on United Nations peacekeeping, including its fundamental principles.

40. As the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations was the only United Nations forum with a mandate to review all matters relating to peacekeeping, its failure to make substantive recommendations in its 2013 report (A/67/19) was of great concern to Cuba. Peacekeeping operations were not an end in themselves but a temporary measure designed to create the necessary security conditions for the implementation of long-term strategies for lasting peace and sustainable development. Operations should therefore have a clear exit strategy prior to their approval and deployment. In addition, peacebuilding activities implemented beginning in the early stages of peacekeeping operations were fundamental for enabling countries to emerge from conflict, and must be specific and based on the host country's priorities, in accordance with the principle of national ownership.

41. **Mr. Kim** (Republic of Korea) said that his delegation urged the Governments of Mali, the Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to investigate recent attacks against peacekeepers in those countries and bring the perpetrators of those crimes to justice. It was vital that those responsible for attacks on peacekeepers should be held accountable.

42. The Republic of Korea had participated in 18 peacekeeping missions, including MINUSTAH and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). Peacekeeping initiatives had become increasingly complex and the Republic of Korea strongly supported efforts by the Secretariat to enhance their effectiveness through new developments in terms of policy, organization, doctrine, training, operation and support. The credibility of the United Nations in the field depended, first and foremost, on peacekeepers, who should be well-trained and mission-oriented. While troop- and police-contributing countries bore primary responsibility for providing peacekeepers with adequate predeployment training, his delegation welcomed the elaboration by the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support of tactical-level protection-of-civilians training modules, as the protection of civilians was becoming an integral part of United Nations peacekeeping mandates. Moreover, to ensure that they were successful, peacekeeping missions must adopt a "capability-driven" approach that made extensive use of cutting-edge technologies. In that regard, the Republic of Korea welcomed the use of unmanned aerial vehicles by MONUSCO, which would enhance the security of peacekeepers by providing valuable intelligence.

43. The Special Committee must elaborate meaningful strategic recommendations based on consensus. Regretting that that Committee had been unable to adopt substantive recommendations in 2013, the Republic of Korea welcomed the establishment of an open-ended intersessional group of "friends of the Chair" and trusted that that group would facilitate agreement prior to the 2014 session.

44. **Mr. Laseinde** (Nigeria) said that efforts to promote sustainable development in unstable parts of the world could only bear fruit when peace and security had been restored. The international community must therefore demonstrate a firm commitment to furthering peace initiatives and addressing the significant challenges faced by peacekeeping operations. Nigeria encouraged Member States and other key stakeholders to continue their efforts to develop tools to enhance peacekeeping management and partnerships with regional and subregional entities, and called for frequent consultations with troop- and police-contributing countries.

45. Peacekeeping could not replace the task of nation-building. Nigeria commended the peacebuilding mechanisms instituted in countries emerging from conflict, particularly in Africa, and believed that promoting inclusiveness and institution-building could help reverse setbacks that had taken place in certain countries, including the Central African Republic and Guinea-Bissau.

46. The Nigerian delegation regretted that the Special Committee had been unable to adopt a substantive report in 2013, but was encouraged by Member States' determination to resolve the current impasse, and welcomed the agreement reached on the constitution of an open-ended intersessional group of "friends of the Chair".

47. Peacekeeping personnel often faced significant risks in carrying out their duties. The steps being taken to improve medical facilities and provide risk management courses for peacekeepers were laudable. The Organization must ensure that death and disability claims filed by or on behalf of peacekeepers were honoured, including in cases in which peacekeepers had suffered from pre-existing medical conditions. As a major troop-contributing country, Nigeria would continue to play a constructive role in the maintenance of international peace and security.

48. **Mr. Rahman** (Bangladesh) said that his country was one of the foremost troop-contributing countries and that approximately 115,000 Bangladeshi nationals had participated in over 40 United Nations peacekeeping operations. United Nations peacekeeping was a collective endeavour and, for operations to be effective, strong partnerships between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries were required.

49. United Nations peacekeepers had proved that they could deliver and meet high expectations. Complex peacekeeping missions involving military, police and civilian personnel were often mandated, inter alia, to protect civilians and to support basic services, economic growth, reconciliation and political processes, including elections. It was therefore

imperative that the Organization, in close consultation with troop-contributing countries, should ensure that peacekeepers were provided with adequate resources to fulfil their mandates and were not required to serve excessively long tours of duty. Furthermore, the costs incurred by troop-contributing countries must be reimbursed in a timely manner.

50. The views of troop-contributing countries must be taken into account at all stages of decision-making, including when drawing up or amending peacekeeping mandates. Any operational changes must reflect the views of peacekeepers on the ground, whose safety and security must remain paramount. Bangladesh was alarmed at the exponential rise in the number of armed attacks on peacekeepers, and called upon the United Nations to make every effort to bring the perpetrators of such attacks to justice. Expressing its deepest gratitude to those peacekeepers that had made the ultimate sacrifice in the cause of peace, Bangladesh urged the Organization to ensure that compensation claims in cases involving the death or disability of peacekeepers were approved as swiftly as possible.

51. **Mr. Messone** (Gabon) paid tribute to the work of all United Nations peacekeepers, particularly those who had lost their lives over the past year. Peacekeepers were operating in increasingly complex, unpredictable and dangerous environments. Efforts to strengthen the human, technical and material capacities of peacekeeping missions were needed so that peacekeepers could better protect themselves in the field. The ongoing United Nations budget reforms must ensure that peacekeeping operations were allocated adequate resources to fulfil their mandates. Gabon commended efforts by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to strike a balance between available resources and needs on the ground and to identify solutions that did not compromise mission goals or effectiveness. Member States, particularly those that contributed equipment and troops, must be more involved in decision-making in that area.

52. Gabon encouraged the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to continue to promote multilingualism, which strengthened the effectiveness of peacekeeping missions by fostering constructive dialogue with host countries. Language was a key factor that should be taken into account in recruitment, the appointment of commanding officers and the drafting of manuals and training materials. In that regard, Gabon welcomed the ongoing collaboration between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie.

53. The establishment of MINUSMA had demonstrated that cooperation with regional and subregional organizations facilitated rapid responses to address crisis situations. Gabon called for the establishment of a mechanism that would foster cooperation and provide for swift responses to other crises, notably in Africa.

54. **Mr. Grujić** (Serbia) said that his country deeply appreciated the commitment and contribution of United Nations peacekeepers and paid tribute to those peacekeepers who had made the ultimate sacrifice for peace. Peacekeeping operations were complex, particularly when they were mandated to help restore stability in countries emerging from conflict, and they must be equipped and structured appropriately if they were to successfully address the challenges they faced. The Organization must therefore enhance its peacekeeping operational capacities, inter alia, by implementing efficiency measures and mobilizing additional resources. Enhanced training of military, police and civilian peacekeeping personnel was also recognized as a critical component of successful missions.

55. Serbia welcomed the Secretariat's efforts to enhance analysis and more closely monitor peacekeeping operations, and emphasized that ongoing dialogue and coordination among key stakeholders, including the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Secretariat, host countries and troop- and police-contributing countries and regional organizations, were crucial if peacekeeping missions were to be planned successfully. In that regard, the experience and expertise of troop- and police-contributing countries were of particular relevance.

56. Serbia welcomed all initiatives to improve the safety and security of United Nations personnel and looked forward to discussing models for the use of modern technologies to protect peacekeepers and enhance their work in the field. Mainstreaming the gender perspective in peacekeeping was also of critical importance and the Organization must redouble its efforts to encourage the participation of women in peacekeeping operations and decision-making. In that connection, Serbia commended the recent adoption of Security Council resolutions 2106 (2013) and 2122 (2013) on women, peace and security.

57. In charting the way forward for United Nations peacekeeping operations, the Special Committee played a key role. Serbia hoped that the open-ended intersessional group of "friends of the Chair" would facilitate the success of the 2014 substantive session. Serbia had participated in several peacekeeping operations, including MONUSCO and MINUSTAH, and stood ready to enhance its role in United Nations peacekeeping activities.

58. **Mr. Mbalati** (South Africa) said that the United Nations must take urgent measures to ensure the safety and well-being of peacekeepers deployed in dangerous areas. In that regard, host countries had a role to play and the United Nations must insist on corrective action to ensure that combatants who attacked peacekeepers did not go unpunished. The United Nations must also review its host country agreements and memorandums of understanding. It should be recalled that the United Nations presence was not intended to replace the armed forces or police of the host nation.

59. South Africa had consistently maintained that United Nations peacekeeping operations were supports, not substitutes, for political strategies. Those strategies must be underpinned by clear, realistic and achievable Security Council mandates. Since several of those mandates were of a multidimensional nature, peacekeepers must be provided with the necessary resources.

60. Deployments of African peacekeepers as critical first responders had always had to do more with less. Despite resource constraints, such deployments had succeeded in containing the spread of conflicts and altering conditions on the ground so as to facilitate a transition to United Nations peacekeeping. That type of complementarity had been made possible by regional organizations such as the African Union. South Africa welcomed the coordination carried out by the United Nations-African Union Joint Task Force on Peace and Security. Such partnerships should be strengthened through efforts to harness the respective comparative advantages offered by global and regional organizations. While the ongoing cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union in a number of peacekeeping missions was encouraging, it was necessary to narrow the doctrinal gap between the two institutions and to provide the requisite support packages in accordance with United Nations standards.

61. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations remained the primary body of the General Assembly mandated to review peacekeeping in all its aspects and to provide policy oversight. It was therefore extremely disappointing that that Committee had been prevented from adopting substantive recommendations in 2013 as a result of a narrow preoccupation with process and work methods by some of its members.

62. Although modern technologies had already been introduced in certain conflict theatres, there was still a need for policy discussions on such matters. Discussions should be held on the use of unmanned aerial systems prior to the Special Committee's 2014 session, taking into account the MONUSCO experience with such systems.

63. Women had a vital role to play in peacekeeping operations. Accordingly, women accounted for 16 per cent of one of the police contingents contributed by South Africa, the highest percentage of female deployment by a major troop contributor. South Africa welcomed Security Council resolution 2122 (2013), which called for an increased role for women at the negotiating table to resolve conflicts. It also supported the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy against sexual exploitation and abuse.

64. **Mr. Borje** (Philippines) said that peacekeepers were facing greater challenges in increasingly complex operational environments. In the interest of international peace and security, the Member States should work together to support the entire peacekeeping architecture, thereby supporting the peacekeepers who served and the millions of people who faced turmoil and violence.

65. The failure of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations to agree on a substantive report was a cause for concern, and the Philippines called on all stakeholders to reach a consensus and provide clear policy guidelines, particularly on the safety and security of peacekeepers. In that regard, the convening at the earliest possible juncture of the open-ended intersessional group of "friends of the Chair" would be crucial.

66. As a troop- and police-contributing country, the Philippines had been working steadfastly to live up to its international commitments, in line with its sovereign interests and concerns. In relation to capacity-building, the Philippines had worked closely

with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on the training-of-trainers programme held in Manila in May 2013, which had been based on the Department's core predeployment training materials and specialized training materials for police officers. Bilateral and triangular cooperation activities between Member States and with the Department deserved greater attention.

67. Peacekeeping efforts should be supported through the provision of adequate resources and concrete and clear mandates. The Philippines would value a report by the Secretary-General providing in-depth analysis and recommendations to improve the safety and security of peacekeepers. On two occasions in 2013, Philippine peacekeepers had been kidnapped in the Golan Heights; even though they had been released, those incidents underscored the need to increase peacekeepers' self-defence capabilities and to respect mission mandates.

68. In terms of coordination, the Philippines recognized the need for an institutionalized mechanism for transparent and regular dialogue between troop- and police-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat, as recently acknowledged by the members of the Security Council (S/2013/630). At the same time, his delegation considered that although withdrawals were subject to coordination for tactical and operational purposes, they were sovereign decisions by troop- and police-contributing countries.

69. Gender balance was a key component that must be constantly advanced, with more leadership positions occupied by women. The Philippines had deployed a female naval officer to lead its national contingent in MINUSTAH. The Philippines condemned all attacks on United Nations peacekeepers and emphasized the need to provide timely coordination and assistance in the event of fatalities and casualties, including timely formal notification and support to the families of peacekeepers who lost their lives in the service of United Nations missions.

70. **Mr. Msosa** (Malawi) said that Malawi had participated in peacekeeping missions since 1994, and had recently deployed a battalion to the MONUSCO Intervention Brigade. Malawi was grateful to the partner countries that had provided assistance in predeployment training, equipment and expertise.

71. The targeted attacks and killings perpetrated against peacekeepers demoralized peacekeeping efforts and should not continue unabated. Malawi also condemned sexual violence and abuse against women and girls in conflict zones, as such barbaric acts ran counter to the goal of protecting civilians in armed conflicts. Malawi urged Governments and the international community to ensure that the perpetrators of such crimes were brought to justice.

72. His delegation underlined the importance of stronger cooperation between troop- and police-contributing countries, the Security Council, the Secretariat and host Governments. Comprehensive briefings, information-sharing and consultations on each operation would help ensure that appropriate and timely decisions could be made. Lastly, his delegation called for an increase in the participation of qualified women in peacekeeping operations, both in the field and in decision-making positions.

73. **Mr. Bhattarai** (Nepal) said that the deadlock in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations must be overcome, as it undermined that body's key role in providing policy guidance. For the past 65 years, peacekeeping had remained the most important activity of the United Nations. Peacekeeping missions were no longer confined to the monitoring of ceasefires; they also helped to build peace through activities such as protection of civilians, security sector reform and disarmament. Together with troops and police, civilian personnel were involved in areas such as promoting the rule of law, human rights, women's empowerment and economic reconstruction.

74. Nepal had deployed over 100,000 troops in peacekeeping missions and remained committed to strengthening United Nations peacekeeping efforts. Peacekeeping should in all cases be based on partnership, with shared responsibility among the General Assembly, the Security Council, troop- and police-contributing countries and other stakeholders, all of which should observe the principles of transparency, accountability and mutual trust and respect. Security Council mandates should be clear and achievable, and cooperation among the different parties must exist throughout the life of each mission. In that regard, there was a need for greater representation of troop- and police-contributing countries in senior United Nations positions.

75. True global partnership should also be reflected in more urgent measures to meet critical equipment gaps in missions, such as standby arrangements

between the United Nations and Member States for the supply of helicopters. That would save time and effort whenever the need for equipment arose.

76. Even though peacekeeping operations had been conducted for 65 years, planning and budgeting processes remained fragmented. It was necessary to adopt a more proactive approach, with streamlined anticipatory budgeting, operational flexibility between different missions and broadened planning horizons. The concept of deploying peacekeeping and combat troops together and under the same command should be examined thoroughly with a view to preserving the credibility of the Organization's peacekeeping role.

77. Peacebuilding activities should be integrated into peacekeeping operations from an early stage, including in the form of quick-impact projects, so as to develop mutual understanding and trust between peacekeepers and the host country population and to enhance the legitimacy of peacekeeping missions. The scale of deployment on the ground and the multiple actors involved required effective management of the entire peacekeeping mechanism, both at Headquarters and in the field. Reforms in that regard should not be isolated, but should be implemented as a continuous, organic process.

78. Nepal expressed satisfaction at the progress made in the implementation of the global field support strategy, although further progress was required in the areas of modularization, human resources management, procurement and service centres.

79. One of the most challenging tasks was the protection of civilians in conflict zones. Effective implementation of that part of peacekeeping mandates required the accurate and timely provision of information and maintenance of all-weather mobility of troops on the ground, so as to create an environment where people felt safe and protected. Financial, operational and logistical needs in that regard should be assessed objectively. In addition, predeployment training by troop- and police-contributing countries would help to standardize such activities; in that regard, Nepal's national peacekeeping training centre served as a regional hub for integrated peacekeeping training.

80. The existing cumbersome reimbursement system should be improved, especially in respect of the families of peacekeepers who were killed or disabled during peacekeeping missions. The living and security conditions of peacekeepers were harsh, yet the review of financial arrangements for deployments was often overlooked. The safety and security of peacekeepers should be given the highest priority in the planning and execution of all missions.

81. **Mr. Houssaini** (Morocco) said that peacekeeping operations were underpinned by the mutually reinforcing principles of consent of the parties; impartiality, which should not be confused with neutrality or inaction; and the non-use of force except in self-defence or defence of the mandate. The New Horizon initiative launched in 2009 was intended to strengthen peacekeeping by combining the resources of the Secretariat, the Security Council, troop- and police-contributing countries and all Member States. The debate on peacekeeping should also encompass the media, civil society and academic institutions.

82. The constantly evolving nature of the geopolitical context and peacekeeping operations required continuous review, based on shared responsibility among all stakeholders. In that regard, the action called for in Security Council resolution 1353 (2001) to develop triangular cooperation between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries had not been fully implemented.

83. Morocco played an important role in conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, particularly in Africa. It had always taken part in missions approved by the United Nations and had upheld the sacrosanct principles of respect for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and consent of the States concerned, and was increasingly incorporating a humanitarian dimension into its activities. Morocco continued to believe that cooperation between different peacekeeping missions should be discussed with a view to deriving the maximum benefit in financial and operational terms. Similarly, cooperation between new and experienced troop contributors, particularly in the area of training, should be increased and systematized, and the donor base should be broadened. It was important to emphasize global partnership on peacekeeping, while at the same time respecting the specific mandates of individual peacekeeping operations, as spelled out in the relevant legal provisions adopted by the Member States. In creating such partnership, the United Nations must also engage with academic institutions, civil society and think tanks, all of which influenced public opinion.

84. Morocco regretted the failure of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations to adopt a substantive report to the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly. Since that Committee was the main body responsible for devising general peacekeeping policies, Member States must work together to improve its working methods. In general, political will was a crucial element for guaranteeing implementation of the desired aims of the United Nations and troop-contributing countries.

85. **Mr. Granillo** (Observer for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)) said that over the years the responsibilities assigned to United Nations peacekeeping missions had transcended the traditional monitoring of ceasefires and observation of fragile peace settlements to encompass conflict prevention, peace enforcement and peacebuilding. The multidimensional and complex nature of operations highlighted the importance of developing a coherent framework. The so-called "robust mandates" given to United Nations peacekeepers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mali increased the likelihood that they would become involved in the use of force, and thus the question of how and when international humanitarian law would apply to their actions had become more relevant.

86. The applicability of international humanitarian law to peacekeeping forces depended solely on the relevant provisions of such law, irrespective of the mandate assigned by the Security Council, and on the circumstances prevailing on the ground. The mandates and legitimacy of United Nations missions fell within the scope of the Organization's Charter and had no bearing on the applicability of such law. Further, since peacekeepers might well have to perform law enforcement tasks, ICRC considered it important for such personnel to be fully aware and scrupulously respectful of the relevant rules and standards.

87. Increasingly, United Nations peacekeepers were called on to protect civilians in their areas of operation. The measures taken to ensure that the parties to a conflict complied with international humanitarian law were rooted in article 1 common to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, which were binding on the United Nations and troop-contributing countries. The human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support for non-United Nations security forces was an important contribution to enhancing the protection of civilians.

88. ICRC welcomed the implementation of existing strategies to protect civilians and called for in-depth dialogue among humanitarian organizations involved in such work. It had recently revised its professional standards for protection work, which were an important benchmark for interaction among the different agencies and organizations involved, and could inform the development of civilian protection strategies by United Nations peacekeeping missions.

89. United Nations military and police forces must have adequate training and resources, as well as a grasp of legal norms, if they were to cope with the challenges they encountered. In its capacity as promoter and guardian of international humanitarian law, ICRC would continue to provide support and expertise for predeployment and on-site peacekeeper training. It was committed to maintaining its constructive dialogue with the Organization on operational and legal issues related to peacekeeping.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.